183. See the Rules and Orders July 10. 1780.

To the Commanding Officers and Private Gentlemen of the WARD-MILITARY-ASSOCIATIONS *in the City of London.*

It is almoſt unneceſſary to hint to men of public-ſpirited minds—"*That after ſo much diſorder, violence, and "oppreſſion, the helping hand of every good Citizen is wanted to re-eſtabliſh Peace and good Government.*"

GENTLEMEN,

AS you were unanimouſly pleaſed to appoint me your ~~Commander in Chief~~ Chairman ſubject only to the direction of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London *(as principal Commanders of the Honourable Artillery Company)*, for the preſervation of the public peace on a late intereſting occaſion—I truſt that my unremitting attention to your ſervice (of which you were eye-witneſſes) by no means leſſened your expectations.

Excited by the nobleſt principle in the human heart—GRATITUDE!—I beg leave to preſent you with my ſincereſt Thanks for your manly and ſpirited exertions in the protection of your Neighbours and your own Property, by aſſiſting the Civil Power—and, in conjunction with the Honourable ARTILLERY COMPANY, and the LONDON HORSE and FOOT ASSOCIATIONS, effectually guarding this City againſt thoſe alarming dangers to which it lately ſtood expoſed; which has evidently demonſtrated, that by the revival of Civil Regulations, and having MAGISTRATES competent to provide for our *Security*, our Conſtitution is reſtored, and no further probability of the City of London becoming a Military Garriſon.

Gentlemen, with due deference and reſpect, I will now appeal to your humanity and benevolence, in co-operating with me in the PLAN which I had the honour to form, and which I have the conſolation to find meets with univerſal approbation—the Relief of our unhappy Fellow-creatures in the Weſt Indies—ariſing from the moſt awful and tremendous viſitation that ever happened in the annals of ſacred or profane hiſtory.

Having brought this Plan into a regular ſyſtem of diffuſive Charity, and the Committee appointed to carry it into execution conſiſting of Gentlemen of ſuch *rank*, *fortune*, and *character*, as cannot be equalled in any other nation—there will not remain a doubt of the ſmalleſt perverſion of the intention of the Donors.

The ſyſtem I mean to purſue for your example is—to call a Meeting of my Ward Aſſociation, to receive their private Subſcriptions—and, as it conſiſts of moſt of the principal inhabitants, to requeſt of them to accompany me to every houſe in the Ward *(excepting paupers)*, to collect ſuch ſums as may be ſuitable to the inclinations of the reſpective parties.

The Subſcriptions from the ſeparate Aſſociations to be conſolidated in one general ſum, which will demonſtrate that they are as ready to unite in acts of Charity and Benevolence, as to turn out armed for the defence of their Neighbours.—In the next place—the Collections from the inhabitants of the reſpective Wards to be ſeparately diſtinguiſhed—as will every individual Contributor who chuſes it, at a future period.—And on Friday the 16th inſt. at Seven o'clock in the evening, I will requeſt the favour of your attendance at the Half Moon Tavern in Cheapſide, to receive your Report.

With the utmoſt reſpect, I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Monument-Yard, London,
February 9, 1781.

Your moſt obedient and devoted Servant,

DAVID EVANS.

N. B. I have *indiſputable* AUTHORITY to aſſure the Gentlemen of the WARD-MILITARY-ASSOCIATIONS *(who ſo honourably turned out, properly armed and accoutred, on Monday and Tueſday laſt, for the preſervation of the Public Peace)*, That the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, and both the SHERIFFS of LONDON, moſt cordially unite with me in returning thoſe GENTLEMEN their Public Thanks. — particularly upon the trial and acquittal of Lord Geo. Gordon — the Aſſociations were kept conſtantly under arms — and patrolled the city and environs — night and day in a very reſpectable military manner. And notwithſtanding the concourſe of people aſſembled during that period was greater than ever known before — not the ſmalleſt miſchief or diſorder arose to the public annoyance. Fa.

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